

### **REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Claims 1-20 are currently pending in the present application. No amendments have been made to the claims with the filing of this response.

Request for reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested in view of the remarks below.

#### **Claim Rejection - 35 U.S.C. § 102**

The rejection of claims 1, 2, 4-7, 10, 12, 14, 16, 17, 19 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Braune et al. ("An Efficient Method for Controlled Propylene Oxide Polymerization: The Significance of Bimetallic Activation in Aluminum Lewis Acids") is respectfully traversed.

The reference does not describe or suggest a process for preparation of homopolymers composed of oxiranes, or of copolymers composed of oxiranes and comonomers, via anionic polymerization, which comprises:

carrying out a polymerization in the presence of a quaternary ammonium and/or phosphonium compound and of a *mononuclear organylaluminum compound of the formula  $R_3-Al$ , where the radicals  $R$  are, independently of one another, hydrogen, halogen,  $C_{1-20}$ -alkyl,  $C_{6-20}$ -aryl, or  $C_{7-20}$ -arylalkyl.*

Present claim 1. (Emphasis added). Braune et al. describes initiator combinations for polypropylene oxide polymerization, including aluminum complexes. See page 64, column 2. However, the reference does not describe the claimed initiator combination, which includes the specific mononuclear organylaluminum compound of formula  $R_3-Al$ . In particular, Braune et al. describes initiator combinations that include aluminum alcoholates, e.g., isopropanolate. See page 65, columns 1 and 2. By contrast, the present process is carried out in the presence of compounds which include, for example, alkyl aluminum compounds, aluminum halides, or aluminum hydrides. See, e.g., page 7, lines 1 to 5 of the present specification.

Further, as described in the present specification, a process with the claimed specific combination provides polypropylene oxides with substantially higher molecular weights in shorter reaction times. See the Examples of the present specification, beginning at page 16. By

contrast, as described at page 2, line 33 through page 3, line 2 of the present specification, Braune et al. describe a process that is complicated and costly, in which "after 3 hours of reaction time the number-average molecular weight of the PPO is only from about 1100 to at most 3600."

Therefore, the claimed invention is not anticipated by or obvious over Braune et al. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is kindly requested.

**Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103**

The rejection of claims 3, 13, 15 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Braune et al. in view of Yu (U.S. Patent 5,010,139); claims 8 and 9 as obvious over Braune et al. in view of McGee et al. (US 2002/0010268); and claim 11 as obvious over Braune et al. in view of Yu are respectfully traversed.

As appreciated by the Office, Braune et al. is deficient regarding the disclosure of several comonomers. See Office Action at pages 4 to 6. However, as noted above, Braune et al. does not describe all of the components of the process of the claimed process. Further, there is no indication that the references, alone or in combination, provide the specific initiator combination of the claimed process.

Therefore, the claimed process is non-obvious in view of Braune et al. modified with Yu or McGee et al. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing reasons, consideration and allowance are respectfully solicited.

In the event the Examiner believes an interview might serve in any way to advance the prosecution of this application, the undersigned is available at the telephone number noted below.

The Office is authorized to charge any necessary fees to Deposit Account No. 03-2775.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 03-2775, under Order No. 12810-00247-US1 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: July 1, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

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